

it comes to their right to cast their ballot.

This bill isn't about supporting disenfranchised voters, though, or fighting voter suppression. This is a politically motivated power grab that would allow Democrats to determine and Washington to determine how elections in Texas would run.

The narrative of widespread voter suppression is nothing but a scare tactic designed to support a political outcome.

Republicans have blocked every iteration of this partisan power grab so far, and we will stand together to oppose this one as well at the next vote.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ELECTION RESULTS

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, last night, the American people sent an unmistakable message to the Democratic Party: We don't like your agenda, we don't want your agenda, and we won't vote for your agenda or for you.

During this election, the Democratic Party was exposed for what it has become: a party that holds police, parents, and patriotism in contempt. And now the Democrats have paid the price. The Democrats will continue to pay that price until they reject the repugnant radicalism that has infected their party.

The Democratic defeat last night was not in a single State or one county or some isolated municipality. It was not some isolated incident. It was not the result of just a single quirky issue or a bad candidate. It was a nationwide disaster and wipeout for the Democratic Party.

After 12 years of uninterrupted statewide victories in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Democrats appear to have lost not one, not two, but all three statewide races this year, along with control of the Virginia House of Delegates. And the only reason they didn't lose the Virginia State Senate is the State senate wasn't on the ballot last night.

I would remind you that Virginia is not a swing State, as you may have heard this morning to excuse the Democrats' terrible performance. Joe Biden won Virginia by 10 points. It has been 12 years since Virginia voted for a Republican. Virginia is a Democratic State and has been for more than a decade. Yet, now, Joe Biden's acolytes have been soundly defeated by Republican Governor-elect Glenn Youngkin, Lieutenant Governor-elect Winsome Sears, and Attorney General-elect Jason Miyares. It is remarkable how quickly the President's party has frittered away all of the good will in Virginia.

Now, I have also heard some Democrats try to explain away the loss in Virginia by saying Terry McAuliffe was a bad candidate. Now, I certainly have no grief for Terry McAuliffe, but I would say that Terry McAuliffe was such a bad candidate that he also is causing the Democratic Governor in New Jersey to lose. Joe Biden won that State by 16 points, and at this moment, the Governor's race is too close to call—too close to call. So it is at least a 16-point swing even if the Democratic Governor squeaks it out.

Oh, by the way, the Democratic State senate president, one of the key power brokers in New Jersey, appears to be on his path to losing to a Republican truckdriver who spent a grand total of \$153 on his campaign but someone who said: I am a dad and I am a grandfather, and I think that we are taxed too much and that we need better representation.

If anyone had told Governor Phil Murphy and the Democrats yesterday that this would be a close race, he would have been laughed out of the room. Yet outrage against Democratic policies is rampant even in deep blue New Jersey.

Looking across State lines in New York, there was a similarly shocking outcome, with Republicans apparently sweeping every office in Long Island—every office in Long Island—driven in no small part by the insane, pro-criminal policies of the New York Democrats who want to eliminate cash bail and defund the police and go soft on criminals and let them out of jail early.

Speaking of that, let's turn to deep, deep blue Minneapolis, MN, where the BLM riots got kicked off last summer, where Democratic "defund the police" radicals have waged an unrelenting war on their city's police force. In a referendum to replace the police department, 56 percent of voters revolted and voted to keep the police department just the way it is—thank you very much.

This should teach the Democrats an important lesson. If "defund the police" can't win in a city that has been run entirely by Democratic mayors for nearly a half-century, it is not going to win anywhere.

Now, if this was a bad night for Democrats, it was an even worse night for the woke, far-left progressives who dominate in the Democratic Party. In Buffalo, NY, voters appear to have rejected this Democratic radicalism. Self-proclaimed socialist mayoral candidate India Walton had actually beaten the incumbent Democratic mayor earlier this year for the nomination, but now India Walton is losing to the current mayor in a write-in campaign—a write-in campaign.

Again, if your far-left policies can't even win when you are your party's nominee and in a city that has been run entirely by Democrats for a half-century, you had better believe they are bad and unpopular policies that will cost you your next election.

Finally, as far away as San Antonio, Republicans have flipped a largely Hispanic district long considered a Democratic bastion in a clear sign that Republican inroads with Hispanic voters last year were not a fluke.

So what is responsible for this astounding red wave unlike anything we have seen in years? Well, if you listen to some in the media this morning, the answer is the same as always: It is Republican racism. Glenn Youngkin is apparently a smiling, fleece-jacket wearing reincarnation of Democratic demagogues. But if you look at the map and you look at the actual results, this laughable attack is exposed for what it is: dishonest propaganda.

As part of this supposedly racist or White supremacist backlash election, more than half of Hispanic voters appear to have pulled the lever for Glenn Youngkin. Not one but two plurality-Black Virginia State House districts flipped to the GOP. Best of all for this supposedly racist or White supremacist backlash election, Virginia voters just elected the State's first Black female Lieutenant Governor. That woman is Winsome Sears, a gun-toting immigrant, Marine veteran, and a proud conservative Republican.

So much for the media spin. Now for the truth. According to exit polls, the top issues on voters' minds were the economy and education. Both spelled disaster for the Democrats.

For months, Americans have watched with alarm as Democrats have shoveled trillions of dollars into liberal priorities while inflation has surged upwards. They have suffered skyrocketing costs at the grocery store and the gas pump.

First, the Democrats said this is merely transitory inflation. Then they laughed it off as a joke, and they said: Sorry. You will have to lower your expectations. It may take you a while to get your treadmill.

Then they demanded trillions of dollars more in their so-called Build Back Better initiative, which should perhaps be called "build back broke" if you are a working family.

So when Glenn Youngkin offered to eliminate Virginia's onerous grocery tax and cut the progressive gas tax, normal Virginians listened, and they voted.

American parents have also been ignored and mistreated by the schools that are supposed to be teaching their kids. Remote learning was a disaster for America's children. Some have fallen months behind in their development, and many more have suffered the consequences of social isolation. But if there is a silver lining in this tragedy, it is that parents were finally able to see the nonsense that their kids were being taught: critical race theory, indoctrinated to see everything and everyone first and foremost by the color of their skin and to hate their country. Parents were outraged, and parents were right to be outraged.

Now, the Democrats' response to this controversy reminds me of the old line

that that dog didn't bite you; he is not my dog; he kicked you first. Their first response was that critical race theory is a figment of your imagination. And they said it is not taught in Virginia. And they said: Well, it should be taught anyway because our schools and our institutions are so racist.

Then again, they also said that there was no threat of having teenage boys in girls' bathrooms. We now know that Loudoun County didn't just cover up one rape—one rape—of a teenage girl by a boy dressed as a girl but then transferred that boy to another school, where he committed a second assault. Not surprisingly, parents in Loudoun County didn't take too kindly to the woke Democrats in charge of that school system.

When their arguments failed to persuade, the Democrats tried a different tactic: silencing parents. Terry McAuliffe boldly claimed that parents shouldn't tell schools what they should teach their kids. Attorney General Merrick Garland even tried to sic the FBI on parents who showed up to protest at school board meetings.

So it is no wonder that parents voted for Republicans in Virginia and across the country when the alternative was nothing but contempt and spite for parents raising their children as they see fit.

So, yes, the American people are disappointed, dissatisfied, and, frankly, disgusted with the modern Democratic Party, which sneeringly claims that it knows best always and about everything. Now, if it did, it would have seen this coming.

I would simply caution my Democratic colleagues, especially four future former one-term Senators, that if they don't change their ways, if they proceed with this reckless tax-and-spending bill, which includes over a trillion dollars in wasteful spending and which is littered with woke projects and leftist schemes, next year will be even worse. That chill you feel is the voters walking over your grave.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING ABNER LINWOOD HOLTON, JR.,
AND VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a tribute to one of my best friends and my political hero, my father-in-law, Linwood Holton, who died last Thursday at age 98.

I wanted to talk about Linwood and his influence on my life, but there is no more appropriate time to talk about him than right now, as we are about to cast a vote to proceed to the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

Abner Linwood Holton, Jr., was born September 21, 1923, in Big Stone Gap,

VA. Big Stone Gap is a tiny town in the far southwest corner of Virginia, a few miles from the Virginia-Kentucky border.

He was the son of a dad who helped run a small railroad—the Interstate Railroad—that would bring coal out of the coalfields to connect with a larger rail line that ran north and south through the Great Valley of Virginia.

Growing up at that time, with three siblings, with parents who cared deeply about him, he saw the challenges of the Depression. And my father-in-law was a very remarkable youngster because he had a deep empathy for other people that sometimes young folks don't always have.

My father-in-law wrote an autobiography called "Opportunity Time" in the early 2000s, and he described an experience in his life that was pivotal to the rest of his life. He was young, 8 or 9 years old. He lived in a community that was predominantly White folks. There were few African Americans in his town. It was a community that was connected to coal mines in Appalachia. He saw a friend of his talking to an elderly African-American man in an incredibly mean and disrespectful way, and it shocked him.

So he asked the man, after his friend had gone: Why did you let him talk to you that way? I can't believe that a youngster would talk to an adult that way.

And the man basically just pointed to the color of his skin and said: What choice do I have? That is just the way we get treated.

When Linwood wrote his autobiography—I can almost quote this directly from memory—he described that instance, and he said: It caused me to feel such shame then, and I feel shame as I write these words today.

Sometimes young people watch how others treat people, and they just absorb, OK, I guess that is the way you treat people. But Linwood, as a youngster, immediately could grasp, no, that is not the way to treat people.

I think he connected the discrimination against this African-American man with a discrimination that he kind of felt being from Appalachia. There were stereotypes about Appalachians—hillbillies or whatever else they might be called—and he resented that. He didn't like anybody looking down on him, and he decided that the answer to that was not for him to look down on others, but that, instead, anybody looking down on anybody else was doing wrong. I think this was also partly out of Lin's deep religious faith. He was raised in a Presbyterian church, in Big Stone GA, VA.

My father-in-law went on to go to Washington and Lee. Pearl Harbor happened. His parents wrote him and said: We know what you are going to try to do. You are going to try to drop out of college to go fight World War II. Please don't do it.

He promised his parents he would get through the end of the academic year,

and did. And then he dropped out, and he joined the Navy.

I said to my father-in-law once: You were in Big Stone Gap. You had never even seen the ocean before. Why would you join the Navy and not the Army?

He said: In the Navy, you always get a bunk, and I hate sleeping on the ground.

So he joined the Navy. He was in the submarine corps in the Pacific during World War II. He participated in the occupation of postwar Japan. Then came back to Virginia, settled in Roanoke; met my mother-in-law, Jinx, who turned 96 10 days ago; had four children, including my wife, Anne—Anne was the second of their four children—10 grandchildren.

But after practicing law in Roanoke, he made a decision that he didn't like politics in Virginia and he was going to try to do something really important, which was create a competitive two-party system.

Virginia was dominated by a political machine called the Byrd Machine from the 1920s until the 1960s. So there wasn't really two-party politics. And the Byrd Machine was a machine in a particular way—sometimes if we think about machines, we might think about corruption and bribery. That was not what the machine did. The Byrd Machine was corrupt in maybe even a more damaging way. It dramatically limited who could vote, who could participate; drove down turnout in elections through mechanisms, like poll taxes and literacy tests and other things so that very few folks could even participate in the democracy in Virginia—the mother of Presidents.

Linwood came back from the Pacific in World War II. There was a Governor's race in 1945, in Virginia, and a gentleman by the name of Bill Tuck, from Halifax County, won that race. And Linwood has told me this a million times: I came back and Bill Tuck won the Governor's race, and the total turnout in the race was about 8 percent of Virginia adults—8 percent.

Poll taxes kept people away. Literacy tests kept people away. The absence of a meaningful two-party system made some folks say: Why bother?

And Linwood said: I fought in the Pacific for democracy, and I come home to the Commonwealth of Virginia and this is what I'm faced with.

And so he took it upon himself to build a Republican Party so that there could be a competitive two-party democracy in Virginia that would give people a choice and that would break down barriers of all kinds to people being educated together, people working together, and people being able to vote and participate.

My father-in-law is most known because he was the Governor that integrated the public schools of Virginia after previous Governors had kept them segregated, even 16 years after Brown v. Board of Education.

The Byrd Machine had insisted that Governors fight against the Federal